GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:904
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017
Fodder Cultivation
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the area under fodder cultivation is only about four per cent of the cropping area and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the number of livestock is growing rapidly but the grazing lands are gradually diminishing and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore along with the corrective steps taken by the Government to increase the cropping area for fodder production;

(c) whether various States have failed to utilize the funds allocated by the Government for fodder development and if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to reduce the shortage of fodder in the country?

Answer

(a) As per the latest report furnished by Directorate of Economics and Statistics Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare in their Land Use Statistics at Glance, the percentage of fodder crops cultivation in the country stagnates between 4-5% of the total cropped area during the year 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14.
Area under Fodder crops in the country during 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14
(Thousand ha)

Year	Total cropped area	Area under fodder crops	% of fodder crops under cultivation
2011-12	195694	7806	3.98
2012-13	194140	9249	4.76
2013-14	200859	9851	4.89

(b) As per the latest Livestock Censuses 2012, the total livestock population in the country declined from 529.70 Million in 2007 to 512.06 Million in 2012. The Livestock Census is conducted after every five years across the country. The total population of livestock reported in last four census are given below:

(In Million Nos)

Year	1997	2002	2007	2012
Total Livestock	485.39	485.00	529.70	512.06

As per the latest report furnished by Directorate of Economics & Statistics Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare in their Land Use Statistics , there is marginal decrease in the total permanent pasture and other grazing land in the country from 10,311 Thousand Ha in 2011-12 to 10, 256 Thousand Ha in 2013-14. Reasons for gradual decrease in area under pasture land across the States are that the majority of these lands have either been diverted for other agriculture purposes or encroached upon restricting availability for livestock grazing.The responsibility to safeguard against encroachment of land lies with the State governments.
State wise area under pasture & other grazing land in the country are given in Annexure-I.
It is difficult to further increase the cropping area under fodder cultivation due to more importance to the agricultural foodgrain /commercial crops.
(c) As per the design of NLM, projects are received from the States. Further as per budget provided in the beginning of the financial year, a tentative allocation of funds is made to all States and UTs. The States and UTs are asked to submit the proposals after approval of the State Level Sanctioning Committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the State as per the Guidelines. The proposals are examined within the Department and are further approved by the Executive Committee headed by the Secretary, ADF. Most of the States/UTs utilise funds timely. The utilization is ensured by holding meetings with the States/UTs, video conferencing, inspection visits etc.
(d) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Government of India has already taken necessary steps to increase fodder production in various parts of the country by providing financial assistance to the farmers/ Co-operatives through the States/UTs under Centrally Sponsored National Livestock Mission with a Sub Mission on Feed and Fodder Development under the following components.

S. No.	Name of the Components
1.	Fodder Production from Non-forest wasteland/rangeland/grassland/non-arable land
2.	Fodder production from Forest land
3.	Fodder Seed Procurement/ Production & Distribution
4.	Introduction of Hand Driven Chaff-Cutter
5.	5. Introduction of Power Driven Chaff-Cutter

6. 6. Distribution of low capacity, tractor mountable Fodder Block Making units, hay baling machines/reapers/forage harvesters
7. 7. Establishment of silage making Units
8. 8. Establishment of by-pass protein production units
9. 9. Establishment of Area Specific Mineral Mixture / Feed Pelleting/ Feed Manufacturing Unit.
10. 10. Establishment/modernization of Feed Testing Laboratories